



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

August 26, 2004

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division

SEE REPORT DISTRIBUTION LIST

The Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has enclosed for your review a copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed tainter gate cable replacement at Lake Red Rock, Marion County, Iowa.

The next scheduled repair and maintenance of the tainter gate cables will occur in 2007; however, at the current elevation of the conservation pool, the tainter gate cables and brackets are permanently submerged, making performance of scheduled repair and maintenance on the tainter gates and lifting cables virtually impossible without dewatering the tainter gate bays. The Corps proposes a one time 10-foot drawdown and performance of the scheduled repair and maintenance to the tainter gates and cables during the fall of 2007, with future installation of a traveling bulkhead system.

The proposed drawdown would begin in calendar year 2007, immediately after Labor Day. The lake would be lowered at a rate of 0.5 feet per day, so that a 10-foot drawdown would require 20 days to complete. The estimated time for cable replacement and touch-up painting is 4 to 7 weeks. When the work is complete, the pool would be raised as quickly as possible, while still maintaining outflows of at least 300 cubic feet per second. The estimated time needed to reach the conservation pool elevation is approximately 54 days. The total time required for the drawdown, cable replacement, touch-up painting, and pool raise under ideal conditions would be approximately 3.4 to 4 months; however, the time to raise the pool is entirely weather dependent.

This EA evaluates the alternatives and assesses the impacts of the preferred alternative. This action ensures the long-term project purpose of flood control is maintained at the current levels, without any reduction in the life, health, and safety to local and regional human populations.

The EA is being circulated for a 30-day public review period, commencing from the date of this letter. If, at the end of the 30 days, no comments are received that alter the determination

that no significant environmental impact will result, the FONSI will be signed and kept on file at the Rock Island District office.

Questions concerning the EA and FONSI may be addressed to Ms. Karen Hagerty of our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/794-5286. More information can also be found on our web site, <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/>.

All comments on the EA and Draft FONSI must be submitted in writing to our address above, ATTN: Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division (Karen Hagerty). All comments should contain the complete name, address, and telephone number for the public record and to facilitate response to comments, where necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane P. Gapinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "G".

Duane P. Gapinski
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

Enclosure